

# Fotografie Franklinových obrazů z pozůstalosti Richarda Julia Cyriaxe

Na následujících stránkách je reprodukován textový dokument dokládající, že čtyři původní obrazy Payerova franklinovského cyklu byly v roce 1932 ve vlastnictví manželu O'Mearových v Bruselu, kteří je tímto textem zřejmě nabízeli ke koupi.

Není jasné, zda přiložené fotografie jsou původní reprodukce, o nichž se hovoří v textu, nebo zda s textem jako takovým nesouvisí. Každopádně mezi připojenými fotografiemi chybí poslední obraz franklinovského cyklu, *Záliv smrti*, místo něj je tam fotografie jiného Payerova obrazu *Nikdy zpět*.

Reprodukcí textu a fotografií laskavě poskytly [Library and Archives Canada](#), viz též [archivní záznam o Cyriaxově pozůstalosti](#). Autorství fotografií je přisuzováno bruselskému fotografickému studiu Lepi.

Další informace: [http://www.franklinova-expedice.cz/w/Julius\\_Payer](http://www.franklinova-expedice.cz/w/Julius_Payer)

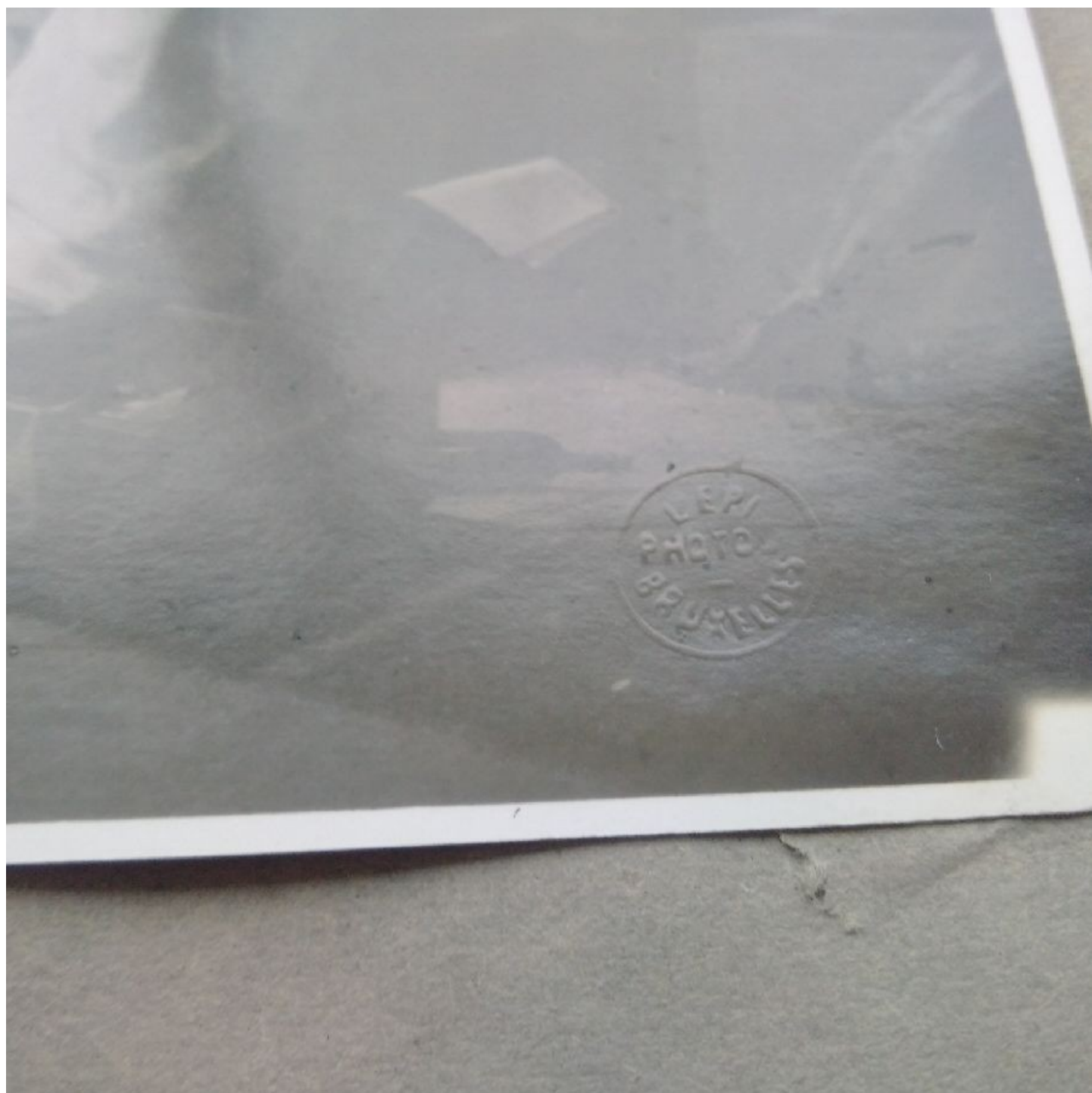
## Photos of Franklin painting's from Richard Julius Cyriax collection

On the following pages is reproduced a text document proving that the four original paintings of Julius Payer's Franklin series were owned by Mr. and Mrs. O'Meara in Brussels in 1932. That text is apparently an offer to buy those pictures.

It is not clear whether the attached photographs are original images, which are referred to in the text or if they are unrelated. Anyway, the last attached photograph is not the missing *Starvation Cove*, instead there is a photograph of another Payer's painting *We shall never retreat*.

Text and photos kindly provided the [Library and Archives Canada](#), see also the [archival record of Cyriax collection](#). Authorship of photos is attributed to Brussels photographic studio Lepi.

More information in Czech: [http://www.franklinova-expedice.cz/w/Julius\\_Payer](http://www.franklinova-expedice.cz/w/Julius_Payer)



THE FOUR ORIGINAL FRESCOES  
REPRESENTING THE FINAL EPISODES  
OF  
JOHN FRANKLIN EXPEDITION  
TO THE NORTH POLE

1845  
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Painted by Sir Julius v. Payer  
(1872-1874)  
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now in the Collections of

Mr. & Mrs. O. O'Meara

Brussels, X.L. (Belgium)

Formerly exhibited: GERMANY : Cologne  
Dusseldorf  
Aix-la-Chapelle  
Breslau  
Hamburg.

AUSTRIA : Vienna  
Buda-Pesth

SUEDE : Stockholm

DENMARK : Copenhagen

FRANCE : Paris, Salon 1887

ENGLAND : London, The Grafton Galleries  
The Royal Geographical  
Society 1874.

(Lecture delivered in the great room of the University in the  
presence of Royalty, H.I.M. the Tsar Nicolas II/ and the Board  
of Admiralty.)



Great Britain and the U.S.A. rivalled with each other in sending expeditions after Franklin and his companions. Lieut. SCHWATKA, U.S.N's expedition, was the last (1879-1880) who during 32 years had been sent to search for the traces of Franklin's party. America made the sacrifice of 22 ships with 1700 sailors (eight were lost) and at the cost of <sup>over</sup> ~~anew~~ one million pound sterling.

And it happened that the results of all those sorrowful re-searches inspired the genius of v. Payer who painted the four-true to life or shall we say to death - frescoes when he returned to Munich. There they obtained the medal of First Degree, the highest distinction conferred in Bavaria by the Royal Academy. Later on this recognition was fully ratified in France, in England, in Austria and in the Scandinavian countries by the prominent art critics.

It has been observed that these frescoes are not only Art-master pieces but also faithful documents. One notices, for instance, the absence of furs, rugs, gloves and the like. McClintock's report informed that he found all along the line of retreat

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clothing cast away, of which numerous articles were given to the artist when he began his great labour.

Obviously, writes MacClintock, men got rid, little by little of all burdens hoping soon to find esquimaux settlements.

Answering a rather stupid criticism from a Paris "animalier" Scoresby declared that the size of the Polar bears (Picture N° 4:- "Starvation Cove") is as represented by the artist, although to inexperienced eyes it may seem somewhat large. Full grown Polar bears, he writes, are often 10 feet long, he came across some specimens measuring 12 feet.

Another interesting feature :- the <sup>features</sup> heads of Capt. Crozier, Dr. Stanley, Lt. de Voeux and I. Master W. Red are Portraits; Sir Franklin's resemblance being obtained by means of the large collection of oil effigies and drawings lent to the artist by Sir John's family and friends (See Mrs. Fanny v. Payer's letters).

As a matter of fact Payer's cleverness and assiduity to minor "à côté's" have taken care of everything down to the minutest detail. This remarkable accuracy of the "nature morte" in this huge composition is of the greatest interest to specialists and to historians.

The four frescoes measure (without frames):-

Pictures Nos. 1 & 3 : Height 3 metres 23 cm.  
Width 4 metres 80 cm.

Pictures Nos. 2 & 4 : Height 3 metres 23 cm.  
Width 4 metres 53 cm.

Picture No. 1 represents : Sir John Franklin's last Moments.

" No. 2 " : Abandoning the Vessels.

" No. 3 " : Divine Service on the Ice.

" No. 4 " : Starvation Cove.

These huge canvasses were greatly admired by French, German, English and Scandinavian public when exhibited "on a tour" by a wealthy enterprising picture dealer (in association with Sir Julius venerable widow) ~~Wm. H. G. G. G.~~ (See letters and accounts).

Representing life-size groups of much talked about personages amidst grandiose Arctic sceneries they did constitute, at the time, a memorable event indeed and it was declared by English experts more splendid and accurate than it would have been supposed possible to achieve.

Present owners of this property estimate that it represents a



valuable historical document of interest especially to Great Britain and to U.S.A. Institutes, Museums, Memorial Halls and Geographical Societies.

The canvasses are in good state of preservation, each is signed and has its original massive wood gilded frame (latter in need of repair).

x x x

Sellers References :-

The President and the Vice-Presidents of the Society of the Belgian Art Museums ("Les Amis des Musées") Brussels.

Mr. I. Charlier, Consul Général de Belgique, Paris.

H.E. Count J. de Lelaing, Belgian Ambassador, La Habana.

H.E. B. de l'Escaille, Belgian Ambassador in Poland.

Bankers Cassel & Co. Brussels.

Mr. Henry-Haye, Député de Versailles - Palais Bourbon, Paris.

Mme. la Duchesse d'Uzès-Mortemart, Château de Bonnelles, near  
Paris

General-Major Vibier, Antwerp (Belgium)

Fr. Drion, Ex-Consul General and Commander of the Legion of  
Honour, Brussels.

The photos herewith enclosed, owing to the difficulty in manœuvring such huge canvasses in our house are mere reductions of old and somewhat faded engravings and photographs and they do not do justice enough to the paintings themselves, remarkable by their exquisite and clear cut dessin and the general Artic atmosphere.

Blue and brown-tinted India prints and large size Holland paper proofs have been issued by former owner of these frescoes. They have become very rare; also post-cards and a few illustrated booklets, viz:- "V. Payer's career as an explorer and a painter". "The life of Sir John Franklin", a volume published in London and given for several years as prize to the schoolboy which contained a popular history of John Franklin's life and exploration. Also an important volume composed in classical German by Sir Julius of which 60.000 copies were sold from 1872 to 1874 (translated by Mac Millan under the title : "New Lands").

Brussels, X.L. Belgium.

March 1932.





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